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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,436	12/20/2005	Joachim Demnitz	2815-0339PUS1	6325
2292	7590	08/18/2008	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			DAVIS, ZINNA NORTHINGTON	
PO BOX 747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			1625	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/18/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/561,436	DEMNITZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Zinna Northington Davis	1625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 May 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7,16-21, and 23-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6 and 12 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 8-11,13-15 and 22 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/20/05.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 are pending. Claim 27 has been canceled.
2. In the response filed May 14, 2008, Applicants have elected Group I, claims 1-22, with traverse. Applicants also identify the 2nd compound of claim 13, 3-Cyano-3,3-bis-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-propionic acid, as the preferred species.
3. Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 22 are drawn to the elected invention. Claims 7, 16-21, and 23-26 are withdrawn from consideration. These claims have not been canceled.
4. Applicant's election of Group I in the reply filed on May 14, 2008 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
5. Rejoinder of the method claims will be addressed upon allowance of claimed subject matter.
6. Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently filed petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(h).
7. Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 22 are Markush claims which are generic to the elected invention. The Markush type claim will be examined fully with respect to the elected

species and further to the extent necessary to determine patentability. See MPEP 803.02.

8. Claims 1-6, 8-15, and 22 are objected on the grounds that the claims are drawn to an improper Markush group. In re Harnisch, 206 USPQ 300, states that a unity of invention exists where compounds included within a Markush group(1) share a common utility and (2) share a substantial structural feature disclosed as being essential to that utility. In the instant case, the claimed subject matter does not share a substantial structural feature disclosed as being essential to that utility.

9. The requirement for a proper Markush claim is that it includes only substances that in their physical, chemical and physiological characteristics are functionally equivalent. The members of the instant Markush groups possess widely different, physical and chemical properties. The compounds are not considered functionally equivalent and are so diverse that they demonstrate dissimilar and unrelated properties. The mere fact that there is structural similarity in pharmaceutical agents is not in itself reason to render all the embodiments functionally equivalent.

10. The improper Markush groups are Ar¹, Ar², A, B, and L.

11. The elected compound has been examined and found to be allowable. The search has been extended beyond the elected compound.

12. The examined subject matter is as follows:

A compound of formula I wherein Ar¹ and Ar² represent phenyl; B represents CN; A represents -COOR'; R' represent alkyl; and L is an alkyl linker. Amending the claims to the examined subject matter would overcome the improper Markush rejection.

13. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

14. Claims 1, 6, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A. At claim 1, the recitation of the term "derivative" is indefinite. It is suggested that the term should be deleted.

B. At claims 6 and 12, last line, it is suggested the phrase "B represents - CONH₂, -CN" should be amended to read as:

--B represents -CONH₂ or -CN--.

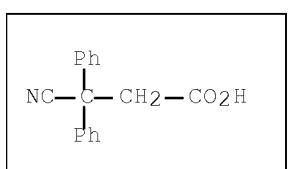
15. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

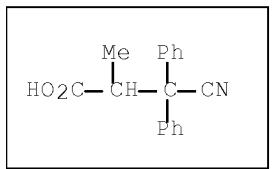
16. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Kayser et al (Reference U, cited by the Examiner).

The instantly claimed compound is disclosed. At page 1530, 2nd column, 4th paragraph, see named compound, 3,3-diphenyl-3-cyanopropionic acid. The compound is depicted below:



17. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Stokbroekx et al (Reference V, cited by the Examiner).

The instantly claimed compound is disclosed. At page 786, 1st column, 6th paragraph, see named compound, 3-cyano-3,3-diphenyl-isobutyric acid. The compound is depicted below:



18. The Information Disclosure Statement filed December 20, 2005 has been considered.

19. Claims 8-11, 13-15, and 22 are objected to.

20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zinna Northington Davis whose telephone number is 571-272-0682.

21. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular communications.

22. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Zinna Northington Davis/
Zinna Northington Davis
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1625

Znd
08.13. 2008